

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --FORD-SADAT MEETING

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1. CAIRO PRESS JUNE 4 REFLECTS HIGHLY FAVORABLE EGYPTIAN REACTION TO SALZBURG TALKS AND PRESIDENT FORD. AL AHRAH'S BANNER HEADLINES REPORT SADAT'S CONVICTION THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS SINCERE. AL AKHBAR'S HEADLINES CITE SADAT'S VIEW THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS "HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD, " WHILE AL GOMHOURIYA STRESSES SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT "SITUATION CALLS FOR HOPE." PAPERS, IN GENERAL, EMPHASIZE PROMISING ECONOMIC ASPECT OF CAIRO-WASHINGTON RELATIONS AND REPORT PRESIDENTIAL REACTION TO ISRAEL'S PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI. PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN EDITORS IS GIVEN PROMINENCE AND EACH PAPER FRONTPAGE COLUMN ON SALZBURG EVENTS BY ITS EDITOR.

2. AL AHRAH'S COLUMN BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALI HAMDY EL GAMMAL REFLECTS PRESIDENT SADAT'S SATISFACTION WITH HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD. IT HIGHLIGHTS PRESIDENT FORD'S DETERMINATION NOT TO ALLOW RETURN OF NO-WAR NO-PEACE STATE. ALONG WITH OTHER EDITORS, EL GAMMAL CONVEYS SADAT'S COMMENT ON PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI AS "ATTEMPT BY RABIN -- FOR POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDISTIC PURPOSE -- TO LESSEN VALUE OF DECISION TO RESUME SUEZ CANAL NAVIGATION." BUT SADAT SAID THAT HE "WOULDN'T LESSEN VALUE OF RABIN'S

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ACTION." ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, EL GAMMAL SAYS THAT,

FOLLOWING FAILURE OF SECRETARY'S MISSION, BOTH CAIRO AND WASHINGTON OVERCAME ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM. EL GAMMAL CITES U.S. AID WHICH, IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, "IS BASIS FOR OVERCOMING ALL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WE ARE FACING."

3. AL AKHBAR'S EDITOR MOUSA SABRI CITES SADAT'S COMMENT THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS PROMISING SIGN. AS RESULT OF SALZBURG TALKS, SABRI PREDICTS THAT RESUMPTION OF KISSINGER'S MISSION IS NOT REMOTE POSSIBILITY AND THAT U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT (ESTIMATED AT \$400 MILLION) IS CERTAIN. HE REFERS TO SECRETARY'S JOKING COMMENT TO EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS THAT ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAW FIVE KILOMETERS IN RETURN FOR EGYPTIAN WITHDRAWAL WEST TO MERSA MATROUH. ISRAEL WOULD THEN WITHDRAW FIVE MORE KILOMETERS IN RETURN FOR FURTHER EGYPTIAN WITHDRAWAL' "THIS IS OVERT CALL FOR NEW WAR," AMBASSADOR GHORBAL COMMENTED LAUGHINGLY.

4. AL GOMHOURIYA'S EDITOR MOHSEN MOHAMED PREDICTS THAT SECRETARY'S ME MISSION WILL BE RESUMED AND THAT "RESULTS OF EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR LONG RANGE LOANS TO REPLACE CURRENT, MEDIUM RANGE, HIGH INTEREST LOANS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON." MOHAMED ALSO REFERS TO PRESIDENT FORD'S SUSPENSION OF AID AND ARMS TO ISRAEL FOLLOWING FAILURE OF SECRETARY'S MISSION.

5. REPORTING ON PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN EDITORS, ALL THREE PAPERS QUOTE PRESIDENT FORD'S VIEW THAT "ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, ALONG WITH SUEZ CANAL OPENING, IS GOOD INITIATIVE." U.S. HAD HOPED ISRAEL WOULD TAKE SUCH STEP, HE SAID.

6. ALL EDITORIALS HAIL SUCCESS OF SALZBURG MEETING. AL AHAM POINTS OUT THAT U.S. HAS TO PLAY ROLE IN GETTING ALL ME PARTIES TO AGREE ON DEFINITE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE. AL AHAM CARTOON SHOWS EGYPTIAN MOTHER WISHING HER SON THE SAME SUCCESS IN EXAMS AS ACHIEVED AT SALZBURG. AL AKHBAR SEES SECOND DISENGAGEMENT IN SINAI AND GOLAN AS MOST LIKELY RESULT OF SALZBURG MEETING AND REEVALUATION
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OF U.S. POLICY. AL GOMHOURIYA APPLAUDS U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT IN SALZBURG THAT IT WILL CONTINUE PEACE EFFORTS.
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